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Message Text

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44
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-11 AID-05 /088 W
---------- 020855
R 161751Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6681
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 0573

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IV, WA, AO
SUBJECT: SWAPO LEADER NUMOMA VISITS IVORY COAST

1. SWAPO LEADER SAM NUJOMA RECENTLY PAID SHORT VISIT TO
IVORY COAST AS PART OF TOUR OF SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES
SOLICITING SUPPORT OF SWAPO POSITION ON NAMIBIA AND ANGOLA.
NUJUMA HAD ALREADY VISITED DAKR, FREETOWN AND MONROVIA PRIOR TO
ABIDJAN AFTER WHICH HE PLANS TO STOP AT ACCRA AND LAGOS BEFORE
RETURNING TO LUSAKA.

2. IN TWO-HOUR CALPH ON GOIC PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY
JANUARY 14, NUJOMA THANKED IVORY COAST FOR MORAL AND MATERIAL
AID ALREADY GIVEN SWAPO IN ITS FIGHT FOR LIBERATION OF NAMIBIA
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AND ASKED FOR CONTINUING SUPPORT. QUESTIONED BY REPORTERS

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AFTER CALL ON SWAPO'S POSITION ON ANGOLA, NUJOMA REPLIED THAT SWAPO TOOK POSITI OF NEUTRALITY BUT THAT SWAPO WAS STRUGGLING NOW TO PREVENT NAMIBIA BEING USED AS A BASE BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS FROM WHICH TO LAUNCH MILITARY ACTIONS IN ANGOLA. NUJOMA SAID THE REPORT THAT NAMIBIANS ARE FIGHTING IN ANGOLA IN THE RANKS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IS COMPLETELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

3. GOIC OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED NUJOMA ON CALL ON HOUPHOUET TOLD EMBOFF JANUARY 16 THAT IVORY COAST HAS GIVEN SWAPO LEADER ITS FRANK ASSESSMENT OF "REALITIES " OF ANGOLA SITUATION AND TAT GOIC CONSIDERED SOUTH AFRICA WAS INTERVENING IN REACTION TO SOVIET-BACKED INTERVENTION ON SIDE OF MPLA. HOUPHOUET BELIEVES THAT "IDEOLOGICAL WARS" SUCH AS ANGOLA OFTEN PRODUCE "UNNATURAL ALLIANCES." NUJOMA WAS ADVISED SWAPO WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHICH SIDE IT WAS ON AND REALIZE CLEARLY THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS FOR NAMIBIA OF ITS ACTIONS. NUJOMA REPORTEDLY SAID HE WOULD THINK OVER HOUPHOUET'S ADVICE AFTER WHICH THE TWO LEADERS WOULD MEET AGAIN FOR FURTHER "DIALOGUE" ON THEQUESTION.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SWAPO WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MORAL SUPPORT FROM IVORY COAST ON THE NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE QUESION, IT IS CLEAR THAT GOIC WILL NOT RPT NOT USE ITS DIPLOMATIC LEVERAGE WITH SOUTH AFRICA TO PRESS FOR A MILITARY DISENAGEMENT FROM ANGOLA EXCEPT IN CONTEXT OF CALLS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM THE TERRITORY. SMITH

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